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Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 USIE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 /013 W
---------- 094835
O 101008Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5491

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GB, US
SUBJ: MUHAMMAD ALI

REF: LIBREVILLE 0663

1. MINISTER OF INFORMATION CALLED AMBASSADOR EARLY THIS MORNING JUNE 10 TO STATE THAT MUHAMMAD ALI HAD FAILED TO SHOW ON FLIGHT HE WAS DUE TO COME IN ON LAST NIGHT AND THAT GOG HAD SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED CABLE STATING ALI COULD NOT COME AND WAS SENDING HIS BROTHER TO EXPLAIN REASON.

2. ALI SCHEDULED TO GIVE EXHIBITION BOUT THIS EVENING (JUNE 10). GOG HAD ALREADY RESUCTANTLY AGREED TO GIVE HIM HIS PERCENTAGE OF GATE IN ADVANCE. TICKETS SOLD AND GOG NOW LEFT HOLDING THE BAG. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE FROM POINT OF VIEW PRESIDENT BONG, PRESIDENTS SENGHOR AND MOKTAR OULD DADDAH EXPECTED HERE TODAY ON WAY TO OAU MEETING IN MOGADISCIO AND BONGO HAD INVITED THEM TO ALI BOUT TONIGHT.

3. USG HAD, OF COURSE, NOTHING TO DO WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALI VISIT TO GABON AND GOG RECOGNIZES THIS. INEVITABLE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT WILL HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US-GABONESE RELATIONS. EVEN BEFORE THIS LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION, EMBASSY HAD HEARD RUMORS OF CONSIDERABLE COMPLAINT BY GABONESE PUBLIC THAT "AMERICANS" WERE CHARGING OUTRAGEOUS PRICES FOR SEATS.
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4. DECONTROL ON RECEIPT.
MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

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